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INTENSIFIED PROPAGANDA, NEW TACTICS
OF FINNISH COMMUNISTS

Professor Esa Kaitila, deputy chairman of the Finnish People's Party, surveyed the present economic and political situation and the future mission of the Finnish People's Party at the annual meeting of the party's TB818 local on 27 January 1953. He also discussed the activity of the Communist Party.

The speaker considered the different aspects of international Communism and confirmed the noticeable decrease of Communist support in France, West Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, and elsewhere, pointing out that the exposures of and changes in Cominform tactics are evident also in Finland. In Finland, however, he stated, no actual decrease in the influence of the Communists is apparent, and in the 1951 national elections they regained a great portion of the loss suffered in previous elections. He mentioned the Elanto Cooperative election in Helsinki last fall, where the Communist vote actually decreased, but where the percentage decrease was less than half that of the Social Democrats (the total number of votes cast also decreased from earlier elections). The Finnish People's Party, he said, was the only party whose vote increased in the Elanto election -- over 70 percent, in fact -- and the Finnish People's Party thus emerged as the largest nonsocialist party in this election.

Several months ago, Professor Kaitila continued, the contents of Communist newspapers were monotonously devoted to the forging of the "peace chain," but the tactical errors which occurred recently within the Social Democratic Party gave the Communists new political ammunition. Moreover, he stated, the Communists greatly intensified their field work and propaganda during the winter of 1952 and are now using more diversified methods. One of their special tactics, he pointed out, is to try to take advantage of the increasingly unfavorable economic situation, one of their most common arguments being that unemployment is caused purposely. Their tactics, he continued, include an attempt to expand unemployment projects by urging people to get their names on the card files of the employment offices; after large unemployment projects have thus been artificially created, large-scale Communist propaganda programs are started at the projects. Such practices, Professor Kaitila concluded, indicate that the motivating force of the Communists is not the improvement of the people's sociological and economic conditions, but the attainment of goals quite foreign to Finnish society.

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